

The American Experiment: A History of the United States

By Steven M. Gillon, Cathy D. Matson

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Approaching the American History survey course in an innovative way, this mid-length text features a more expansive definition of political history. The American Experiment includes all forms of politics, not just electoral politics, while simultaneously incorporating cultural history. With the specific aim of expanding history beyond elite actors, The American Experiment emphasizes everyday work, family life, customs, and objects of cultural history to address its four themes of government, identity, culture, and America and the world. The Second Edition retains the hallmark pedagogical approach of the previous edition. Marginal icons link students to the companion web site for interactive maps. Several chapter-opening features introduce students to the key themes of the text; these themes are revisited in the Conclusion. Each chapter concludes with a list of suggested readings, providing students with further opportunities for research.

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Editorial Review

About the Author
Steve Gillon received his Ph.D. from Brown University. He has taught American cultural and political history at Brown, Yale, and Oxford. While a Professor at Yale, he was awarded the DeVane medal, a teaching award conferred each year by graduating seniors. He currently serves as Dean of the Honors College at the University of Oklahoma, and is Resident Historian at the History Channel. Dr. Gillon's books include THE DEMOCRAT'S DILEMMA: WALTER F. MONDALE AND THE LIBERAL LEGACY and "THAT'S NOT WHAT WE MEANT TO DO": REFORM AND ITS UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA. His most recent book is THE PACT: BILL CLINTON, NEWT GINGRICH, AND THE RIVALRY THAT DEFINED A GENERATION.

Cathy D. Matson specializes in the economic culture and thought of the Atlantic World from 1500-1800. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University, and is currently Professor of History at the University of Delaware and Director of the Program in Early American Economy and Society at the Library Company of Philadelphia. Her publications include A UNION OF INTERESTS: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA and MERCHANTS AND EMPIRE: COMMERCE IN COLONIAL NEW YORK. She is currently at work on a study comparing the economic and cultural development of the Hudson and Delaware Valleys.

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